

TEAM LEADERS' GUIDE

Handball





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Welcome Message

Dear Athletes and Team Officials,

We are delighted to welcome you to Tokyo and thank you for your participation in TOKYO 2025 DEAFLYMPICS.

This guide has been prepared to provide you with essential information to ensure your experience here is smooth, productive, and enjoyable.

We have been working diligently to support all delegations and create an environment where you can perform at your best and feel at home. We hope that your time here will be both successful in competition and rich in cultural exchange and friendships.

We wish you a safe, memorable, and inspiring stay.

About this Team Leaders' Guide

Published in September 2025, this Team Leaders' Guide offers a summary of competition-related material about handball competition at TOKYO 2025 DEAFLYMPICS and provides a variety of information aimed at helping teams in planning and preparation.

1. Overview

1. 1. Competition Overview

The TOKYO 2025 Deaflympics Handball Competition will be held from Sunday, November 16 to Tuesday, November 25 at the Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Court.

The competition consists of the following event.

Event	Men	Women
Handball	✓	

A total of 128 athletes (128 men) is scheduled to participate in the handball.

Participating in Countries

MEN (8 countries)			
BRA	CRO	FRA	GER
JPN	KEN	SRB	TUR

1. 2. Key Dates

14 Nov 2025	Technical meeting (at the Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Games Stadium)
15 Nov 2025	Opening ceremony (at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium)
16 Nov 2025 (DAY1)	Handball Competition Begins
25 Nov 2025 (DAY10)	Handball Competition Ends
26 Nov 2025	Closing Ceremony (at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium)

1. 3. Competition Format

For the TOKYO 2025 Deaflympics Handball Competition, the preliminary round will be conducted using a round-robin-format, while the final round will be conducted using a tournament format.

【Preliminary Round (Group Stages)】

During the preliminary round, each team will play against each other team in its own group once. Teams are drawn into groups as determined below:

Men: Sixteen (8) teams will be drawn into four (2) groups of four (4) teams each.

【Match System】

Mutual ranking in the group determined as follows:

In the preliminary round, two points are awarded for a win, one for a draw and none for a loss. qualify for the final round.

If two or more teams are tied on points after the completion of group matches, the following criteria will be applied in the order listed to determine their ranking:

- Points
- Head-to-head meetings (if more than two teams finish on the same score, the internal table is Calculated.
 - o Points in head-to-head meetings
 - o Goal difference in head-to-head meetings
 - o Number of goals scored in head-to-head meetings
- Total goal difference
- Total number of goals scored
- Lottery draw

【Final Round (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, Finals and Classifications)】

After the preliminary round is completed, all teams will advance to the final round as determined below:

Men:

- The top four teams from each group (1st to 4th place) advance to the quarterfinals, with the following matchups: (QF1: B1 v A4) and (QF2: B2 v A3) and (QF3: A1 v B4)

and (QF4: A2 v B3).

- The winners of the quarterfinals will advance to the semifinals: (winner of W13 v winner of W16) and (winner of W15 v winner of W14).
- The losers of the quarterfinals will advance to the playoffs for 5–8 places: (loser of L13 v loser of L16) and (loser of L15 v loser of L14).
- The winners of the semifinals will advance to the final.
- The losers of the semifinals will advance to the 3–4 places.

1. 4. Rules

Handball competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the following document.

Technical Regulation

<https://www.deaflympics.com/games/tokyo-2025/HB/regulations>

Regulations for IHF Competitions Indoor Handball (version: 2024)

[https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf)

[12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf](https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf)

1. 5. Competition Equipment

All equipment used during competition must comply with the IHF Rules and Regulations.

Regulations for IHF Competitions Indoor Handball (version: 2024)

[https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf)

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The official match ball is Molten A5000 size 3, approved by the IHF. The following ball sizes (i.e. circumference and weight) shall be used for the different age categories:

- 58 to 60 cm in circumference and 425 to 475 g in weight (IHF size 3) for men's senior and men's youth (aged 16 and older) players



1. 6. Competition Clothing

- Participants must wear competitive uniforms representing their nationality, duly registered and published in accordance with the IHF Rules and Regulations.
- Participants must observe the Deaflympics Regulations regarding advertisements on their uniforms and clothing worn in the competition area.

Regulations for IHF Competitions Indoor Handball (version: 2024)

[https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.ihf.info/sites/default/files/2024-12/Regulations%20for%20IHF%20Competitions_Indoor%20Handball_E.pdf)

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Deaflympics – Regulations

<https://www.deaflympics.com/icsd/deaflympics-regulations>

2. Competition

2. 1. Competition Schedule

Preliminary Round						
Date	No.	Group	Start Time	Match-Ups		
16 Nov Sun	M1	A	10:00	JAPAN	VS	TÜRKİYE
	M2	A	13:00	GERMANY	VS	BRAZIL
	M3	B	16:00	SERBIA	VS	KENYA
	M4	B	19:00	CROATIA	VS	FRANCE
17 Nov Mon	M5	A	10:00	BRAZIL	VS	JAPAN
	M6	A	13:00	TÜRKİYE	VS	GERMANY
	M7	B	16:00	FRANCE	VS	SERBIA
	M8	B	19:00	KENYA	VS	CROATIA
19 Nov Wed	M9	B	10:00	FRANCE	VS	KENYA
	M10	B	13:00	CROATIA	VS	SERBIA
	M11	A	16:00	TÜRKİYE	VS	BRAZIL
	M12	A	19:00	JAPAN	VS	GERMANY

Group A

	A1 JAPAN	A2 GERMANY	A3 TÜRKİYE	A4 BRAZIL
A1 JAPAN		19 Nov 19:00 M12	16 Nov 10:00 M1	17 Nov 10:00 M5
A2 GERMANY	19 Nov 19:00 M12		17 Nov 13:00 M6	16 Nov 13:00 M2
A3 TÜRKİYE	16 Nov 10:00 M1	17 Nov 13:00 M6		19 Nov 16:00 M11
A4 BRAZIL	17 Nov 10:00 M5	16 Nov 13:00 M2	19 Nov 16:00 M11	

Group B

	B1 CROATIA	B2 SERBIA	B3 FRANCE	B4 KENYA
B1 CROATIA		19 Nov 13:00 M10	16 Nov 19:00 M4	17 Nov 19:00 M8
B2 SERBIA	19 Nov 13:00 M10		17 Nov 16:00 M7	16 Nov 16:00 M3
B3 FRANCE	16 Nov 19:00 M4	17 Nov 16:00 M7		19 Nov 10:00 M9
B4 KENYA	17 Nov 19:00 M8	16 Nov 16:00 M3	19 Nov 10:00 M9	

Final Round

Date	No.	Group	Start Time	Match-Ups		
21 Nov Fri	M13	Quarterfinals	10:00	B1	VS	A4
	M14	Quarterfinals	13:00	B2	VS	A3
	M15	Quarterfinals	16:00	A1	VS	B4
	M16	Quarterfinals	19:00	A2	VS	B3
23 Nov Sun	M17	Place 5-8	10:00	L13	VS	L16
	M18	Place 5-8	13:00	L15	VS	L14
	M19	Semifinal	16:00	W13	VS	W16
	M20	Semifinal	19:00	W15	VS	W14
25 Nov Tue	M21	Place 7-8	10:00	L17	VS	L18
	M22	Place 5-6	13:00	W17	VS	W18
	M23	Bronze	16:00	L19	VS	L20
	M24	Gold	19:00	W19	VS	W20

2. 2. Official Training

Official training for handball will be held at the Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Court. The pre-assigned training schedule has been determined based on the official Deaflympics draw results, each team's group allocation, and the competition schedule.

Schedule

Schedule		13 Nov Thu	14 Nov Fri	18 Nov Tue	20 Nov Thu	22 Nov Sat	24 Nov Mon
1	10:00—11:00	FRANCE	KENYA	FRANCE	B1	L13	L17
2	11:10—12:10	TÜRKİYE	BRAZIL	KENYA	A4	L16	L18
3	12:20—13:20	CROATIA	SERBIA	CROATA	B2	L15	W17
4	13:30—14:30	JAPAN	GERMANY	SERBIA	A3	L14	W18
5	14:40—15:40	KENYA	JAPAN	TÜRKİYE	A1	W13	L19
6	15:50—16:50	BRAZIL	CROATIA	BRAZIL	B4	W16	L20
7	17:00—18:00	SERBIA	TÜRKİYE	JAPAN	A2	W15	W19
8	18:10—19:10	GERMANY	FRANCE	GERMANY	B3	W14	W20

2. 3. Pre-competition procedures

Technical Meeting (ref:P16 MAP No①)

The Technical Meeting will be held in the Indoor Sports Arena Multipurpose Room on the following schedule. Each participating NDSF (National Deaf Sports Federation) may send up to two officials, at least one of whom must be deaf. An interpreter may be present if necessary.

- **14 Nov 2025, 19:00**

at **Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Court**

- **Technical Committee**

Jonny Gustavsson – ICSD Handball Director (Chair)

Masaki Ienaga – JHA Representative

Ryoichi Fukushima – JHA Head Referee

Noa Tsutsui – Sport Liaison Officer

Daizo Tanaka – Deaf Representative

2. 4. Competition Procedure

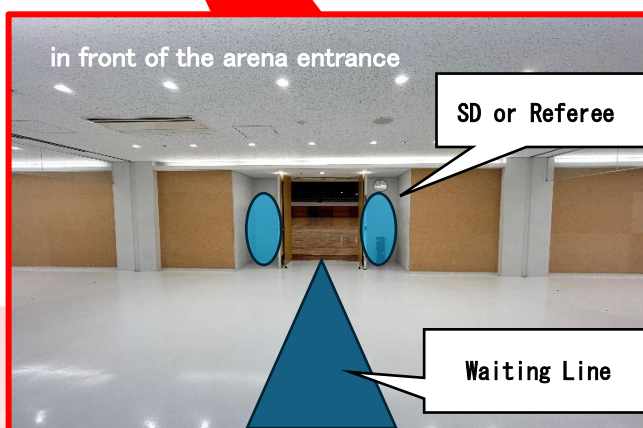
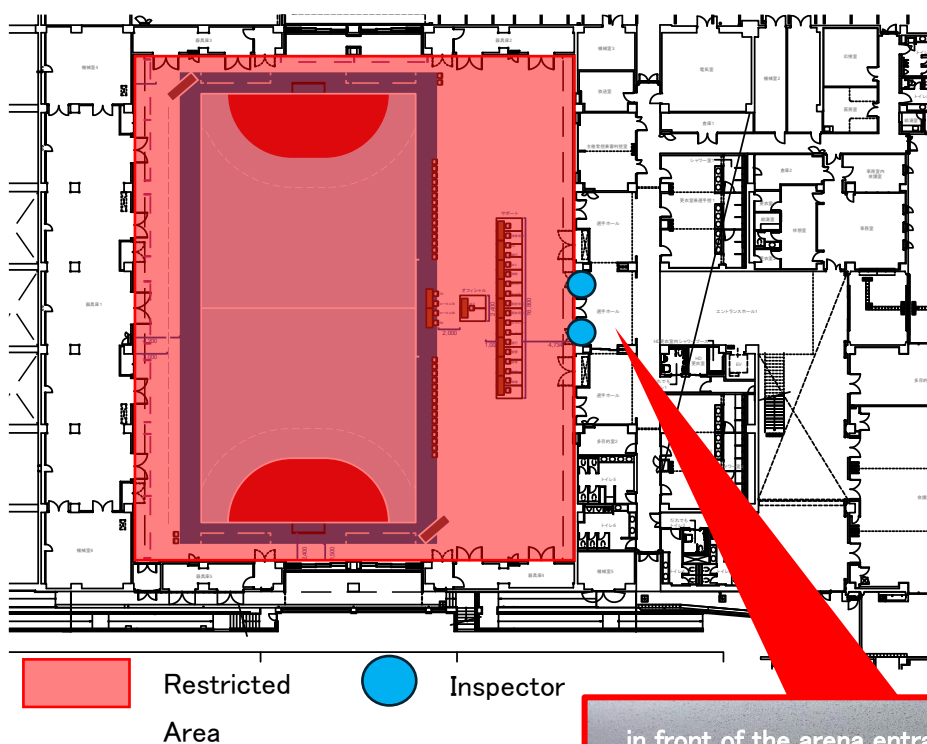
Hearing Aid Prohibited Area (ref:P16 MAP No②)

In accordance with Audiogram Regulations, athletes participating in the 2025 Summer Deaflympics are strictly prohibited from using hearing aids or cochlear implant assistive devices during competition. This regulation applies specifically to restricted areas defined as follows:

●Indoor Ball Court Arena

【Inspection Timing and Inspectors】

- First inspection (Before Warm-up): SD
- Second inspection (Before walk-in): Referee



Hearing Aid Violation

- If an athlete wears a hearing device during the warm-up or the match within the restricted area
 - **Immediate blue card (disqualification from the match)**
- The player is suspended for the next match.
- If the same athlete commits this violation a second time (in the same competition),
 - **the athlete will be automatically disqualified from the competition.**
- The violation must be documented by the match referees on the scoresheet and reported using the ICSD Violation Form.

Protests

● Protest Filing Procedure

All sport related protests will be resolved in accordance with the IHF Rules and Regulations and will be adjudicated by the Protest Committee.

- Any protest must be written in English on the Official Protest Form. The form and a deposit of USD\$100.00 must be given to the ICSD Handball Director within 60 minutes after the official public posting of results.
- The ICSD Handball Director will decide whether the protest is sport-related or eligibility-related. The Protest Committee will review all sport-related protests, and the ICSD Representative will review all eligibility-related protests.
- The deposit of USD\$100.00 will be returned to the applicant only if the protest is considered valid.

● Protest Review Procedure

The Protest Committee will meet in the competition venue or a designated office at a time decided upon by the ICSD Handball Director.

- The ICSD Handball Director will chair of the Protest Committee.
- The Sport Liaison Officer (SLO) will be responsible for booking a meeting room and interpreters.
- The SLO will contact and inform all members of the Protest Committee of the meeting time and location.
- The ICSD Handball Director will be responsible for liaising with the State Sports Association's Competition Manager.

• After adjudication, the ICSD Handball Director will forward the original Official Protest Form (along with the protest fee if the protest was denied) to the ICSD Secretariat. The SLO will forward a copy of the form to the Deaflympics Headquarters.

● Protest Committee

The Protest Committee is comprised of the ICSD Handball Director and other members nominated by the Organizing Committee and approved by ICSD:

Jonny Gustavsson – ICSD Handball Director (Chair)

Masaki Ienaga – JHA Representative

Ryoichi Fukushima – JHA Head Referee

Official Meeting (ref:P16 MAP No③)

- Start Time: 1 hour before each match
- Attendees: SD, Referee-in-Chief, Referees, Team Officials, SLO
- Agenda: Coin Toss
Uniform Check
Submission of Team Roster

Warm-up Area (ref:P16 MAP No④)

Players may warm up inside the FOP up to 50 minutes before the match. However, eating inside the FOP is not permitted. Please eat in the players' changing room.

Accredited /Team Seating (ref:P17 MAP No⑤)

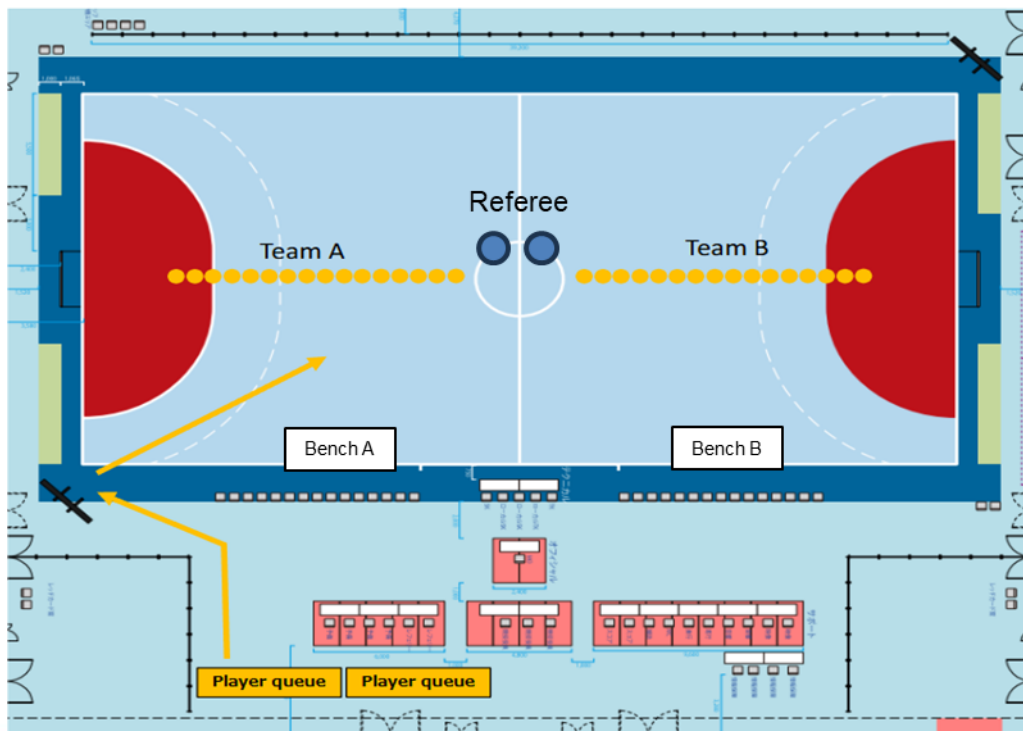
Athlete seating is provided on the East 2nd Floor, allowing teams to watch other handball matches held in the indoor ball court.

Pre-Match Procedures

Ex)

TIME	LAP	HEAD
9:00:00	45'00	Warm-up
9:45:00	5'00	Teams leave the court and/ Inspection
9:50:00	0'30	Welcome announcement
9:50:30	5'00	Entry of the teams and presentation
9:55:30	1'00	Referee/MO/TD presentation
9:56:30	2'00	National anthems
9:58:30	1'30	Final warm-up before the match
10:00:00	-	Start of the match

Player Entry Procedure



- Players wait behind the support seats.
- Line up with the captain at the front, followed by players in ascending order by jersey number.
- Team B enters first, running in a single line and forming their lineup.
- After entering, face the bench and remain standing in line.
- Then, Team A enters in the same manner.
- Once Team A is lined up, each player is introduced one by one.
- The referee, TD, and MO are introduced via announcement.

Escort Kids' Event

On the morning of November 25th, an escort kids' event where children will enter the court holding hands with the players will be held during the 7th place playoff entrance.

The kids will line up alongside the players as they prepare to enter and enter the court by holding hands. Pine resin on the players' hands is acceptable.

After entering, the kids will stand in front of the players during the introduction of players and national anthems.

The kids will exit the court immediately after both national anthems are finished

Team Timeouts

Each team is allowed two timeouts in the first half and two timeouts in the second half, for a total of four timeouts per game.

If there's a requirement to retrieve a green card from a team with just 5 minutes left in the match, please ensure that this detail is also included in the record.

2. 5. Post-Competition Procedures

Interview Space (ref:P16 MAP No⑥)

The interview space, where accredited media can interview players and coaches after the competition, is located at the FOP exit.

Players requested by the media will be escorted to the interview space after the match. On the 25th, medalists (captains only) will be guided to the interview space following the medal ceremony.

14

Victory Ceremony Orientation (ref:P16 MAP No⑦)

Teams placing 1st to 3rd are requested to assemble at the Indoor Ball Court Arena for the victory ceremony orientation.

The 1st and 2nd place teams are scheduled to participate after the end of the 7th training session (scheduled for 18:00) or after the end of the 8th training session (scheduled for 19:10) on the 24th.

The 3rd place team is scheduled to participate after the end of the 3rd match on the 23rd (scheduled for 17:45 or later).

Detailed schedules will be provided by the Organizing Committee on the day of the event.

Victory Ceremony (ref:P16 MAP No②)

The tentative schedule for the victory ceremony is as follows:

● Men's: 25 Nov 2025, 21:00 at Komazawa Olympic Park Indoor Ball Court

Athletes participating in the victory ceremony must wear sports shoes and official team overalls displaying their NDSF name on the back.

Team managers are requested to ensure that the medalists are readily available and appropriately dressed.

Carrying flags, taking photographs, or using cameras during the ceremony is prohibited.

3. Venue

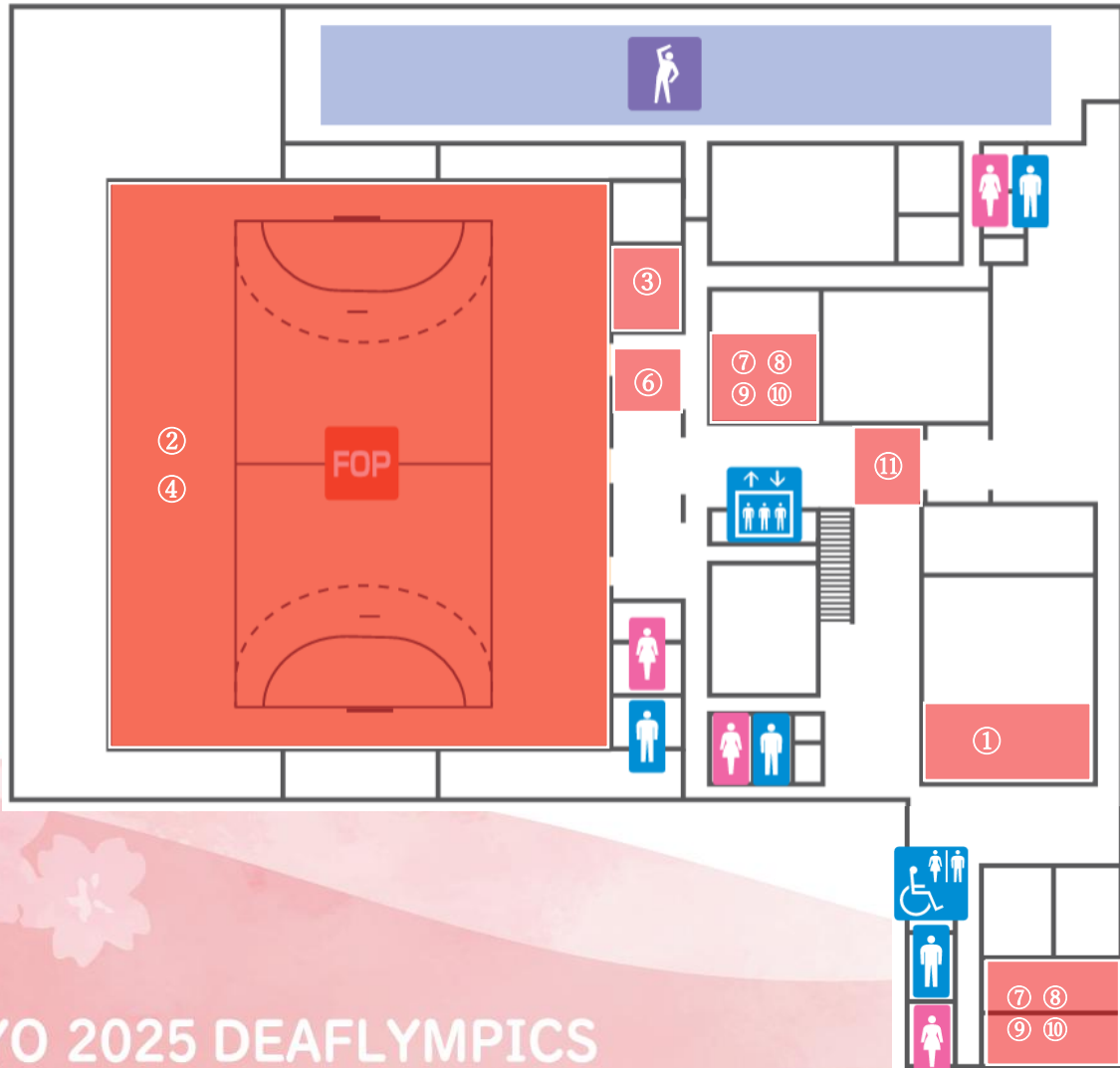
3. 1. Competition/Training Venue

Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Court
(Komazawa Park, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo)

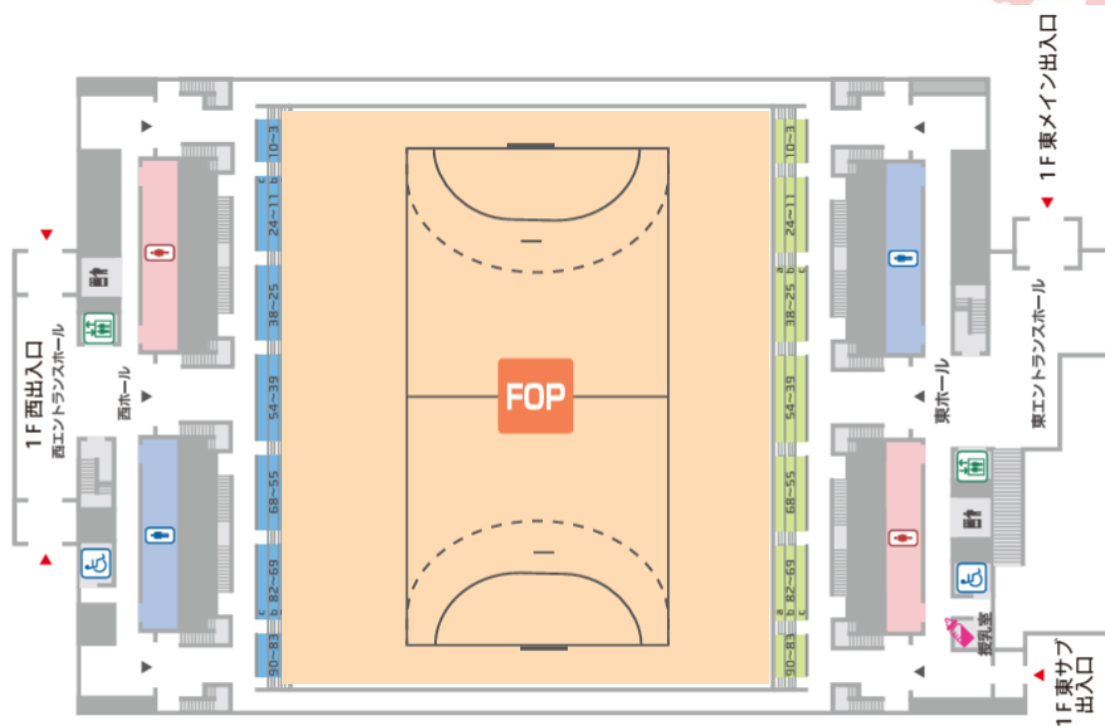
The TOKYO 2025 Deaflympics Handball competition will be held at the Komazawa Olympic Park General Sports Ground Indoor Ball Court.



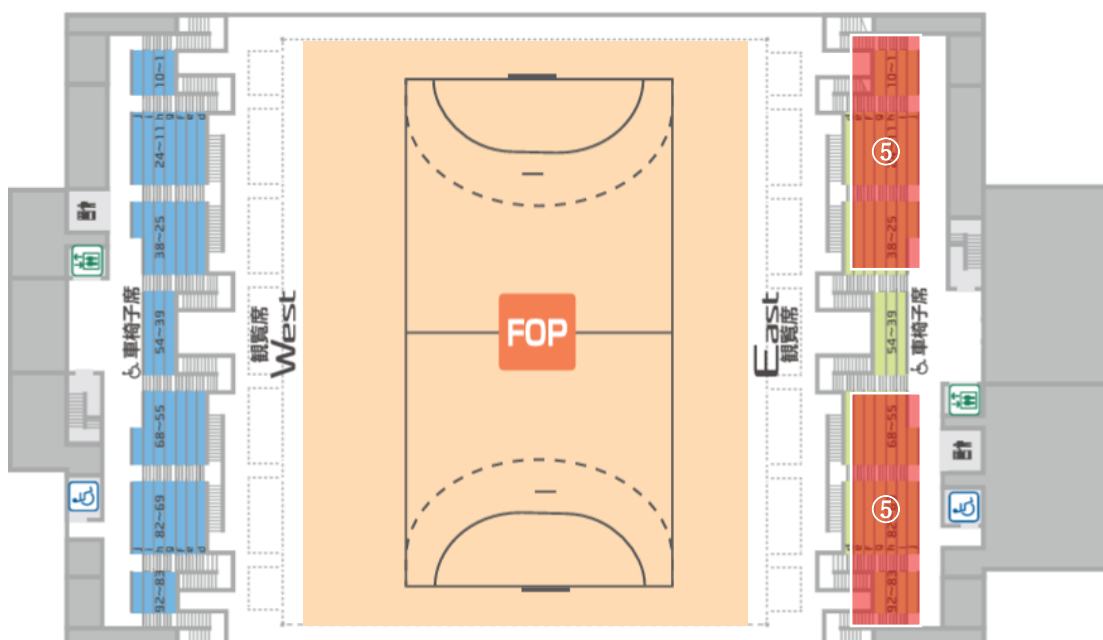
B1F



1F



2F



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ① Technical Meeting | ⑦ Victory Ceremony Orientation |
| ② FOP/Hearing Aid Prohibited Area | ⑧ Changing Room/Shower |
| Victory Ceremony | ⑨ Light Meal Service |
| ③ Official Meeting | ⑩ Beverage/Ice Service |
| ④ Warm-Up Area | ⑪ Sports Information Desk |
| ⑤ Accredited/Team Seating | |
| ⑥ Interview Space | |

※Important Notes When Leaving the Arena

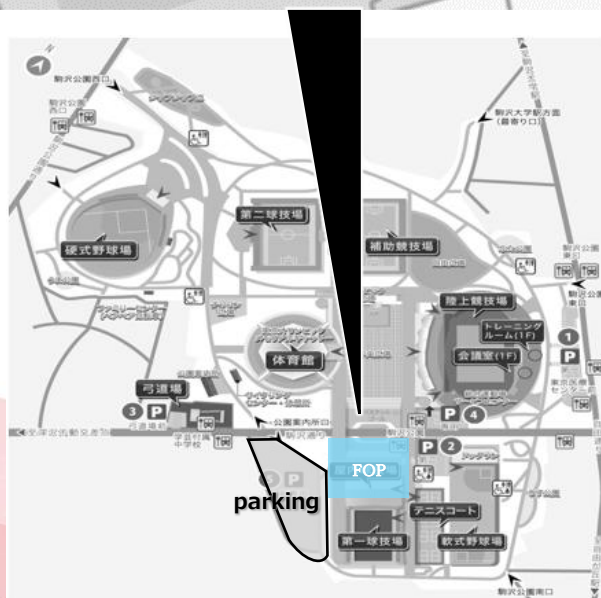
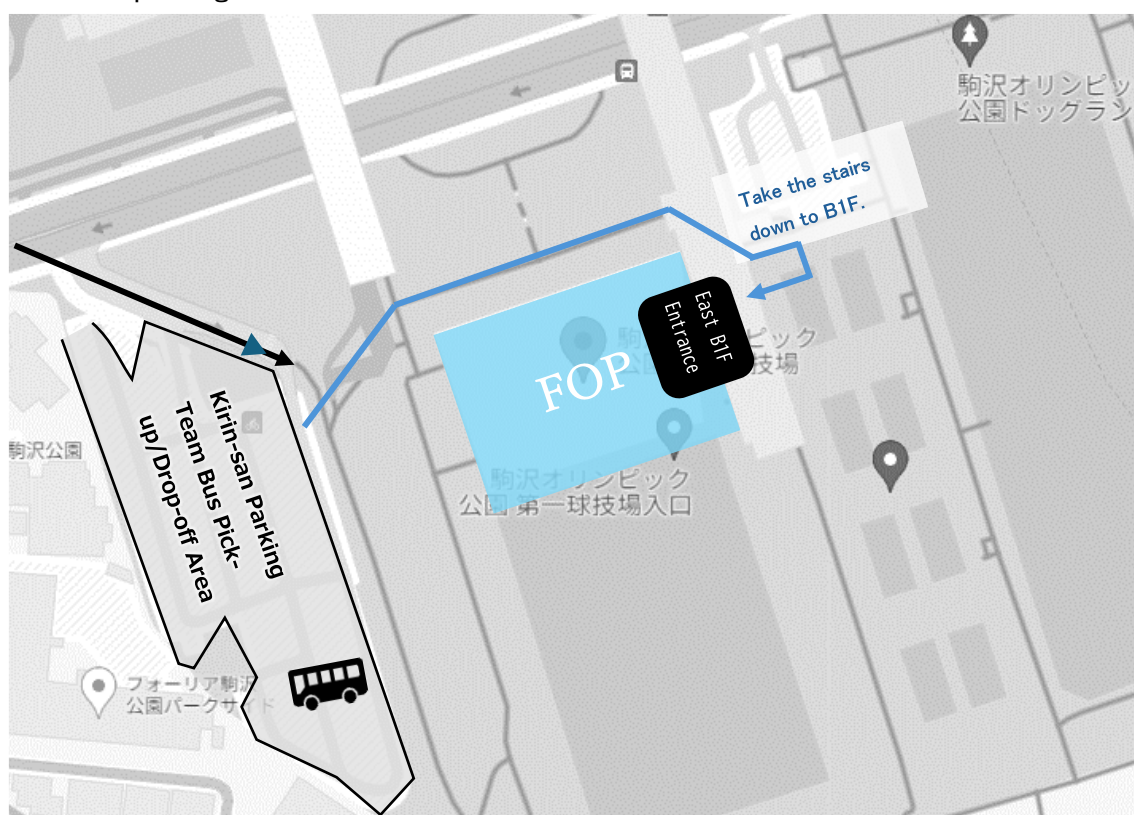
Please make sure to remove all resin from the soles of your shoes before leaving the arena.

※Smoking is prohibited inside the venue and throughout the park grounds. Smoking areas are not available.

3. 2. Venue Entry

The Indoor Ball Court will open from the arrival of the first team bus until the departure of the fourth team. Team buses will operate according to match schedule. Athletes who wish to arrive or depart outside these scheduled times must arrange their own transportation. Please note that on training days, entry outside the assigned training time is not permitted.

All delegations must collect their ID cards at Deaflympics Square by the designated date and time of their venue entry. Please follow staff instructions when moving from the parking area.



3. 3. ID Card

- ID cards will be issued at Deaf Square. They will not be issued at the competition venues.
- Each ID card is personal and non-transferable. Please carry it with you at all times within the venue zones.
- You are also required to present your ID card when boarding buses to the competition venues, so please make sure to have it with you at all times.
- If your ID card is damaged or lost, contact the Games Headquarters immediately. Afterwards, you must visit the ID Center at Deaf Square in person to complete the reissuance procedure.

3. 4. Transportation Services

- For the latest transportation schedule, please refer to the "[Transportation Services](#)" page on the Athletes' Delegation website. Bus timetables and designated boarding/alighting locations will be posted there. Please check the timetable daily, as changes may occur the day before.
- Team transportation buses are available only for your team's matches and training. Departure times and destinations cannot be changed for personal reasons.
- Team buses depart on time. Please arrive at the bus stop well in advance to avoid missing your bus. If competitions or training are delayed, departure times will be adjusted accordingly on the day.
- Before departure, the delegation must confirm that all team members are present.
- If your team no longer requires the shuttle bus (e.g., due to canceled practice), please contact the LOC immediately.
- The bus used for the outbound trip may differ from the one used for the return trip. Please ensure you do not leave any personal belongings on the bus.
- An ID card is required to board the bus, so please carry it with you at all times.

3. 5. Venue Services

– Changing Rooms/Showers (ref:P16 MAP No⑧)

The B1 floor features team-specific changing rooms and shower facilities. Each changing room is equipped with showers.

Towels are not provided, so please bring your own.

Restrooms are available on every floor; please refer to the venue map on page 16.

– Light Meal Service (ref:P16 MAP No⑨)

During competition hours, beverages and the following light snacks will be available in the athlete changing rooms. No advance order is required.

Light meals may be consumed in the changing rooms and athlete seating areas.

- Bananas
- Energy bars
- Sandwiches

– Beverage & Ice Service (ref:P16 MAP No⑩)

Beverages (mineral water) and ice will be available in the changing rooms.

– Sports Information Desk (SID) (ref:P16 MAP No⑪)

The Sports Information Desk (SID) is located at the entrance on the B1 floor of the Indoor Ball Court.

From November 13 to 25, 2025, the SID will open 15 minutes before the first bus arrives at the venue (8:15) and will close after the last bus departs (22:00).

The SID provides information on competitions and results. Please feel free to ask if you have any questions.